



SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Check Out Our Website

Previous issues of the Social work newsletter, upcoming events, information on your health care team and Desert Cities Dialysis unit news. Go to: www.desertcitiesdialysis.com

Safety Net Grants

American Kidney Fund is still accepting grant applications. Their grant is to assist patients with dialysis related expenses. Limit of \$100 per year per patient. Talk to your social worker about applying for assistance paying for medications, transportation, or other health related expenses. For those who have applied already, there is a delay in processing.

Squash 4 Friends FREE food

Squash 4 friends is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping feed those in need...vegetables. Every Wednesday from 8 am to 12pm they distribute fresh picked vegetables to people in need. No documentation is required, just show up and take what you need. They are located on Rock Springs Rd. in Hesperia between Main St. and Deep Creek Rd.

FMLA

This is the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). If you or a loved one must leave work either for medical reasons or to care for a loved one, it offers up to 12 weeks of job protection. Often used in conjunction with California Paid Leave or State Disability. Typically used by family to assist dialysis patients during a time of need. Talk with your social workers for more information.

Meals on Wheels

The Victorville Meals on wheels was closed several years ago. Currently Barstow senior nutrition offers home delivered meals to seniors 65+ who are homebound. Be aware they have a 1 year waiting list; however, they are expecting more funding to eliminate the waiting list. You can get on the waiting list by calling them at: (760) 256-5023.

Advanced Arrangements

While almost none of us are comfortable with the idea of being incapacitated or even of dying, unfortunately it is an inevitable part of life. So many times friends and family are caught in a situation where they are not sure of their loved one's wishes.

We urge you to spare your friends and loved ones the burden and ensure that your wants are carried out in the event you cannot choose, so:

- 1) Please complete your Advanced Directives
- 2) Please complete your final arrangements.

There are inexpensive, even free ways to prepare as long as it is done in advance! Please talk to your social workers about options for you.

RMS Healthcare Surveys

Desert Cities Dialysis had contracted with RMS Healthcare to conduct surveys for quality improvement. Please return calls and/or mailings to help us continually make Desert Cities Dialysis the best it can be. We need your honest input!! Please respond to our surveys. As always, your responses will be anonymous. This third party surveying service does not include any names with the results of the survey.



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Health Insurance Premium Payment

The American Kidney Fund also has a grant to assist patients in paying for health insurance. Eligibility for this program includes:

- 1) Premium is not automatically deducted from your social security.
- 2) After your basic bills are paid, you have less than \$500 left over.
- 3) You have no liquid assets over \$3000 that could be used to pay the premium.

Please talk to your social worker if you meet these three requirements.

Incontinence and Wound Supplies

If you or a loved one requires briefs, pads, gauze, or other supplies they may be covered by your insurance. Go to www.shieldhealthcare.com or call 1-800-765-8775 to see if the supplies are covered.

Copays for Medications

For those who received Renvela medication assistance, it is time for refills, please check in with your social workers when you are 3-4 weeks from running out. Social workers are applying for persons who need assistance with paying copays. Programs exist that can help you. Please let your social worker know if you are having trouble affording your copay, or if your copay seems higher than it should be. We have already identified some individuals who we expect to be hitting the “donut hole” this year and we will be approaching you with options.

Dental Expenses

As we all know, dental work can be quite costly. Luckily there are some additional programs out there to assist with the costs of dentistry.

1. Low income dentistry call (909) 792-9430 for dentist Dr. Song. Talk to Lessette.
2. SAC low income dental program (909) 382-7120.
3. Medi-Cal now has dental coverage, see your social worker about dentist in the area that accept Medi-Cal.

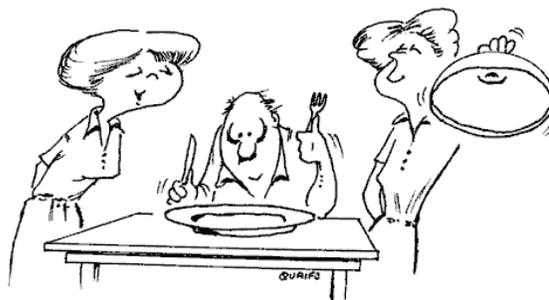
Renal Support Network

HOPEline Peer Support Phone Line

(800) 579-1970

Log onto www.rsnhope.org for events, online support and coffee chats for dialysis patients. Don't suffer through this alone, reach out and connect.

Humor



...and this dish is totally potassium-free!

